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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Philippe Donckel (Luxembourg), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.8

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 26 September 2011,

Taking note also of the Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul from 9 to 13 May 2011,[3]

Recognizing the important contribution of civil society, the private sector and parliamentarians to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its preparatory process,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[4]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners (European Union), to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development framework and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard, invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;[2]

3. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms, including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

4. *Further calls upon* the development partners to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

5. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

6. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of

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[3] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1).

[4] A/66/134.

cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

7. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with least developed countries' national priorities;

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme at their 2011 annual sessions to integrate the Istanbul Programme of Action within their respective programmes of work, welcomes with appreciation the adoption of a resolution by the Assemblies of member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization to mainstream the relevant parts of the Istanbul Programme of Action into various programmes of the organization, also welcomes the decision of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to mainstream the relevant provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into the work of the secretariat and its intergovernmental machinery, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and multilateral organizations to do the same;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels;

10. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, including the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the development of a road map to coordinate the activities of the relevant United Nations system organizations for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

12. *Underlines* the need for giving particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

13. *Takes note* of the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting

mechanism dedicated to least developed countries building on the existing international initiatives;

15. *Recalls* that a smooth transition of countries graduating from least developed country status is vital to ensure that those countries are eased onto a path towards sustainable development without any abrupt disruption to their development plans, programmes and projects;

16. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to establish, in consultation with Member States and the Secretary-General, an Ad Hoc Working Group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session with specific recommendations, consistent with the Istanbul Programme of Action;

17. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard, expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

18. *Stresses* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to fulfil its functions to assist the Secretary-General for the effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels, and to assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and to this end, it should continue its awareness-raising and advocacy works in favour of least developed countries in partnership with the relevant part of the United Nations, as well as with parliaments, civil society, the media, academia and foundations, and to provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries;

19. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should be provided with the necessary support to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recognizes that the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, in accordance with paragraph 155 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, will facilitate, inter alia, consideration by the Assembly of the ongoing resource requirements of the Office of the High Representative;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.